

ABSTRACT

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3 Methods are provided for the enhanced delivery of an antigen to antigen-presenting cells
4 such as dendritic cells by conjugating an antigen to a molecule targeted to an endocytic
5 receptor on the dendritic cell, such as DEC-205. The molecule targeted to an endocytic
6 receptor may be a natural ligand to the receptor or an antibody thereto. Conjugates may
7 be covalent complexes or single-chain polypeptides. Together with modulation of the
8 maturation of the dendritic cell, an enhanced immune response or tolerizing immune
9 response may be generated to the antigen. In addition, conjugate molecules including
10 single-chain polypeptides are provided which contain at least an endocytic receptor-
11 binding molecule and a preselected antigen.

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